



USDA-NASS

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HIGHLIGHTS:

November Milk Production
Cattle on Feed
Red Meat Production
Potato Production
Hogs & Pigs Inventory
November U.S. Egg Production

November Milk Production Down 0.2 Percent

Milk production in the 20 major States during November totaled 11.6 billion pounds, down 0.2 percent from November 2002. October revised production, at 12.0 billion pounds, was down 0.1 percent from October 2002. The October revision represented an increase of 0.1 percent or 13 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,509 pounds for November, 13 pounds above November 2002.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.71 million head, 82,000 head less than November 2002, and 10,000 head less than October 2003.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 4 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.3 million head on December 1, 2003. The inventory was 4 percent above December 1, 2002 but 5

percent below December 1, 2001.

Placements in feedlots during November totaled 1.93 million, 3 percent below 2002 but 1 percent above 2001. Net placements were 1.83 million. During November, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 680,000, 600-699 pounds were 578,000, 700-799 pounds were 379,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 289,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during November totaled 1.54 million, 11 percent below 2002 and 15 percent below 2001.

Other disappearance totaled 97,000 during November, 8 percent above 2002 and 21 percent above 2001.

November Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.4 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during November 2003. Red meat production was down 9 percent from the previous month and 2 percent from the previous year.

Cattle slaughtered statewide totaled 1,700 head, which is unchanged from a year ago. The average live weight, at 1,134 pounds, was down 10 pounds from the previous year. During November there were 1,400 hogs slaughtered in Montana, 100 head more than a year ago. The average live weight, at 249 pounds, was unchanged from a year ago. The number of sheep slaughtered, at 400 head, is 100 head above the previous year. The average live weight was up 5 pounds from last year, to 125 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.53 billion pounds in November, down 10 percent from the 3.91 billion pounds produced in November 2002.

Beef production, at 1.78 billion pounds, was 18 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.43 million head, down 15 percent from November 2002. The average live weight was down 24 pounds from the previous year, at 1,236 pounds.

Veal production totaled 15.2 million pounds, 10 percent below November a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 78,000 head, down 14 percent from November 2002. The average live weight was 12 pounds above last year, at 321 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.71 billion pounds, up slightly from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.58 million head, 1 percent below November 2002. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 269 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 16.3 million pounds, was down 8 percent from November 2002. Sheep slaughter totaled 236,300 head, 13 percent below last year. The average live weight was 138 pounds, up 6 pounds from November a year ago.

January to November 2003 commercial red meat production was 42.7 billion pounds, down 2 percent from 2002. Accumulated beef production was down 3 percent from last year, veal was down 3 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 9 percent.

Potato Stocks Up 1 Percent

Montana potato producers held 3.2 million cwt or 94 percent of 2003 production on December 1, 2003, compared with 3.1 million cwt or 96 percent held in 2002. Potato production totalled 3,392,000 cwt in 2003 and 3,100,000 cwt in 2002.

The 15 major potato States held 267 million cwt of potatoes in storage December 1, 2003, up 1 percent from last year and 3 percent above 2001. Potatoes in storage account for 66 percent of the 2003 fall storage States' production, up 1 percentage point from last year. Disappearance of 137 million cwt of potatoes is down 4 percent from last year but 7 percent above 2001 movement. Shrink and loss, at 14.7 million cwt so far this season, is down 5 percent from last year but unchanged from the same date in 2001. Processors in the 9 major States used 70.7 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 8 percent from a year ago but 8 percent above two years ago. Dehydrating usage accounts for 14.3 million cwt of the total processing, down 9 percent from last year.

Production of fall potatoes for 2003 is forecast at 412 million cwt, down less than 1 percent from the November forecast and 1 percent below last year. Area harvested, at 1.09 million acres, is down 2 percent

from last year but 2 percent above two years ago. The average yield is forecast at 377 cwt per acre, 1 cwt below last month but 4 cwt above last year. Production estimates are generally higher this year in the Central and Eastern States but lower in the West.

Western States production is forecast at 273 million cwt, down 6 percent from last year but 3 percent above 2001. Acreage harvested, at 660,300 acres, decreased 4 percent from last year. The average yield of 414 cwt per acre is down 7 cwt. Production decreased in 4 of the 9 Western States. California's yield is down due to hot weather and problems with seed quality. Colorado's production fell 15 percent as farmers reduced planted acreage to conserve underground water supplies following drought conditions during the past two years. Idaho's production decreased 8 percent from last year due to above normal summer temperatures which adversely affected tuber development. In Oregon, dry conditions during June and July reduced yield and tuber sizes. Utah has the largest percentage production increase, up 37 percent from last year. Production in Nevada and Montana increased 25 percent and 5 percent, respectively. Washington's production is 1 percent above last year, while New Mexico's production remains unchanged.

Central States production is forecast at 110 million cwt, up 13 percent from last year and 8 percent above 2001. Harvested area, estimated at 327,500 acres, is up 4 percent, while the average yield of 337 cwt per acre is up 27 cwt from a year ago. Production is above last year for all Central States except Indiana, where heavy rains during July caused ponding and flooding in many fields. Hot and dry weather in August contributed to a lower quality crop. Production increases range from 3 percent in South Dakota to 43 percent in Ohio. Minnesota is up 19 percent, North Dakota increased 15 percent, Wisconsin rose 9 percent, Michigan went up 8 percent, and Nebraska increased 12 percent.

Eastern States production is forecast at 28.4 million cwt, up 9 percent from last year and 7 percent above two years ago. Area for harvest totaled 104,000 acres, virtually unchanged from last year. The average yield rose to 273 cwt per acre, 22 cwt above last season. Production increases occurred in 4 of the 5 Eastern States. Pennsylvania holds the largest increase, 51 percent higher, due to drought conditions in 2002 which made yields lower than usual. Rhode Island production is up 27 percent, New York rose 18 percent, and Maine increased less than 1 percent. Massachusetts shows a decrease of 6 percent from last year's production.

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks, 15 Major States, December 1, 2002-2003 1/

STATE	2002 CROP			2003 CROP		
	Production	Stocks Dec. 1, 2002	% of Production	Production	Stocks Dec. 1, 2003	% of Production
	1,000 Cwt.		Percent	1,000 Cwt.		Percent
CA	4,264	3,300	77	3,444	2,700	78
CO	27,885	20,500	74	23,652	17,800	75
ID	133,385	92,000	69	123,180	86,000	70
ME	16,960	12,600	74	17,030	13,500	79
MI	13,878	7,900	57	15,015	8,400	56
MN	18,700	12,000	64	22,330	14,000	63
MT	3,224	3,100	96	3,392	3,200	94
NE	8,611	5,500	64	9,660	6,700	69
NY	5,500	2,400	44	6,510	3,000	46
ND	23,460	16,000	68	26,880	19,400	72
OH	903	85	9	1,290	260	20
OR	24,936	17,500	70	20,991	18,000	86
PA	2,590	1,400	54	3,915	2,200	56
WA	92,400	50,000	54	93,150	51,000	55
WI	31,125	20,300	65	34,020	21,000	62
15 States	407,821	264,585	65	404,459	267,160	66

1/ Stocks include processor holdings and most of the seed to plant following year's crop. Seed usage for all seasons in 2003 totaled 28.3 million cwt.

Montana Hog Inventory Down 8 Percent from 2002, U.S. Inventory Up 1 Percent

The inventory of all hogs and pigs in Montana on December 1, 2003 was 170,000 head, 8 percent below a year ago. Breeding stock was down 14 percent from last December to 18,000 head. Market hog numbers decreased to 152,000 head, down 7 percent from last year.

There were 37,000 sows farrowed in Montana during the December 2002 through November 2003 season, down 3 percent from a year ago. The number of pigs saved per litter decreased slightly to 9.14 and resulted in an annual pig crop of 338,000 head, a 3 percent decrease from last year.

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2003, was 60.0 million head. This was 1 percent above December 1, 2002, but slightly below September 1, 2003.

U.S. breeding inventory, at 5.97 million head, was down 1 percent from December 1, 2002, but 1 percent above last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 54.1 million head, was 1 percent above last year, but slightly below last quarter.

The September - November 2003 U.S. pig crop for the United States, at 25.3 million head, was 2 percent more than 2002, but 1 percent below 2001. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.84 million head, 1 percent above last year. The sows farrowed

during this quarter represented 48 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 8.93 for the September - November period, compared to 8.83 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.40 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 9.10 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.81 million sows farrow during the December 2003 - February 2004 quarter, 1 percent above the actual farrowings during the same period in 2003, but 1 percent below 2002. Intended farrowings for March - May 2004, at 2.85 million sows, are 1 percent below the same period in 2003 and 3 percent below 2002.

Hogs & Pigs Inventory December 1, 2001-2003

	MONTANA				UNITED STATES			
	2001	2002	2003	'03/'02	2001	2002	2003	'03/'02
	1,000 Head			Pct.	1,000 Head			Pct.
All Hogs & Pigs	170	185	170	92	59,804	59,513	60,040	101
Breeding Hogs	19	21	18	86	6,209	6,012	5,966	99
Market Hogs & Pigs								
Under 60 lbs.	54	55	50	91	19,908	19,461	19,821	102
60-119 lbs.	38	41	37	90	12,924	13,054	13,250	102
120-170 lbs.	30	35	35	100	10,744	10,881	10,839	100
180 lbs. & over	29	33	30	91	10,018	10,105	10,164	101
Total	151	164	152	93	53,594	53,501	54,074	101
Sows Farrowed								
Dec.-Nov. 1/	38.0	38.0	37.0	97	11,385	11,483	11,306	98
Pig Crop								
Dec.-Nov. 1/	346	348	338	97	100,503	101,344	100,406	99
Pigs per Litter: (Actual number)								
Dec.-Nov. 1/	9.11	9.16	9.14	100	8.83	8.83	8.88	101
1/ December previous year.								

November Egg Production up 1 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.28 billion during November 2003, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.25 billion table eggs and 1.02 billion hatching eggs, of which 968 million were broiler-type and 56.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during November 2003 averaged 336 million, down 1 percent from a year earlier. November

egg production per 100 layers was 2,165 eggs, up one percent from November 2002.

All layers in the U.S. on December 1, 2003, totaled 338 million, up slightly from a year ago. The 338 million layers consisted of 280 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 54.9 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.51 million layers producing egg-type

hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on December 1, 2003, averaged 72.4 eggs per 100 layers, up 2 percent from a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.79 billion eggs during November 2003, up slightly from a year ago. The average number of layers during November, at 313 million, was down 1 percent from a year ago.

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